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# MEGA MAN™

# MAN

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**ACTION!**  
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MEGA MAN™ | 54



IN THE YEAR 20XX, A SUPER ROBOT NAMED MEGA MAN HAS PLEDGED TO STOP THE EVIL DESIRES OF DR. WILY AND PROTECT THE WORLD. MEGA MAN NOW FIGHTS ALONGSIDE HIS FELLOW ROBOT MASTERS TO DEFEAT THE FORCES OF EVIL!



CHARACTER  
= SELECT =



BREAK MAN  
DR. LIGHT'S FIRST SON



SHADOW  
MAN  
NINJA ROBOT MASTER



DR. ALBERT  
WILY  
TENACIOUS MADMAN



DR. NOELE  
LALINDE  
CREATOR OF QUAKE  
WOMAN

# MEGA MAN™

## PREVIOUSLY...

Blues was built as the first thinking, human-like robot—a prototype to all **Robot Masters**, and **Dr. Light's** first "son." A faulty power core threatened to destroy him, but Blues feared any modifications would change who he was. So he ran away from home.

Blues was eventually found and repaired by **Dr. Wily**, taking on the identity of **Break Man**. Dr. Wily has repeatedly played upon Break Man's fears and doubts, frequently pitting Break Man against **Mega Man**.

Mega Man and Dr. Wily's last battle ended up destroying the mad scientist's third **Wily Castle** base. Break Man managed to rescue his estranged brother...

but it looked like Dr. Wily was  
lost to the rubble...



SCRIPT: IAN FLYNN PENCILS: RYAN JAMPOLE INKS: GARY MARTIN

LETTERS: JOHN WORKMAN COLORS: MATT HERMS

COVER: PATRICK SPAZIANTE I AM PROTO MAN VARIANT COVER BY: BRENT MCCARTHY

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SPECIAL THANKS TO FRANCIS MAO, NORIKO MATSUNAGA, SUSAN SUAREZ  
AND HIROMI IWASAKI AT CAPCOM MEDIA AND CONSUMER PRODUCTS

BREAK MAN  
DLN-000

I THOUGHT I WAS  
BLUES. BLUES WAS  
A SON. HE HAD A  
FATHER... BUT NO  
PURPOSE.

THEN I THOUGHT I  
WAS BREAK MAN. HE  
HAD A PURPOSE--  
REVENGE. BUT ALL  
THAT ANGER... IT  
SEEMS IT WAS...  
MISPLACED.

SO NOW  
... WHO AM  
I? WHAT  
AM I?

MAYBE MEGA MAN  
WAS RIGHT. MAYBE  
IT'S TIME TO GO  
HOME...

# REDSHIFT

EDITOR'S NOTE:  
THIS ISSUE  
HAPPENS BEFORE  
MEGA MAN #53.

BLAM!

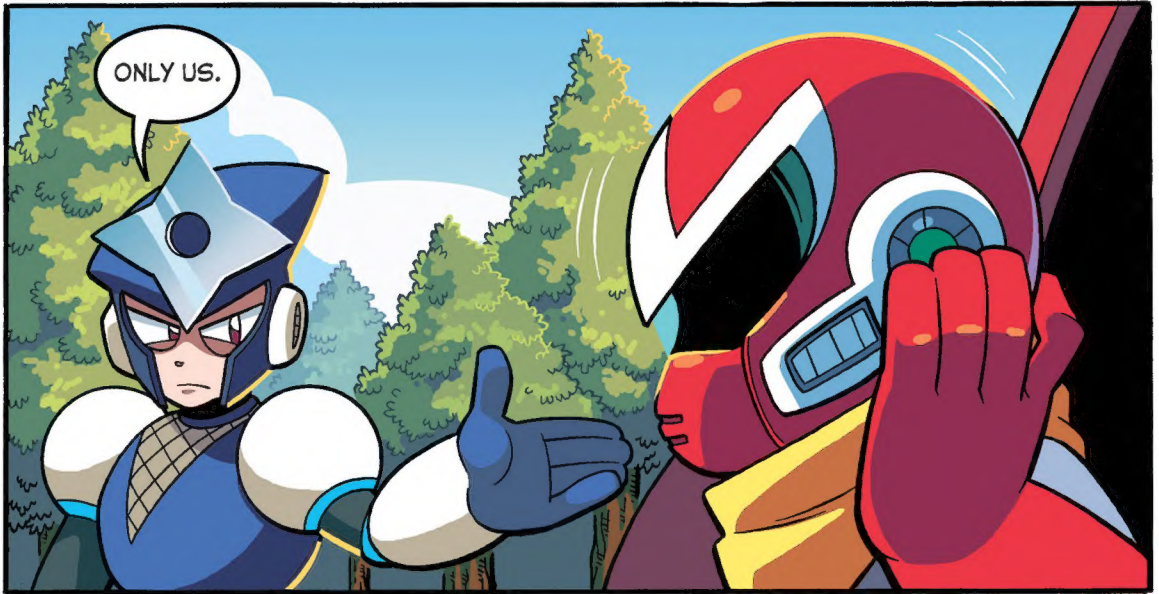
BLAM!

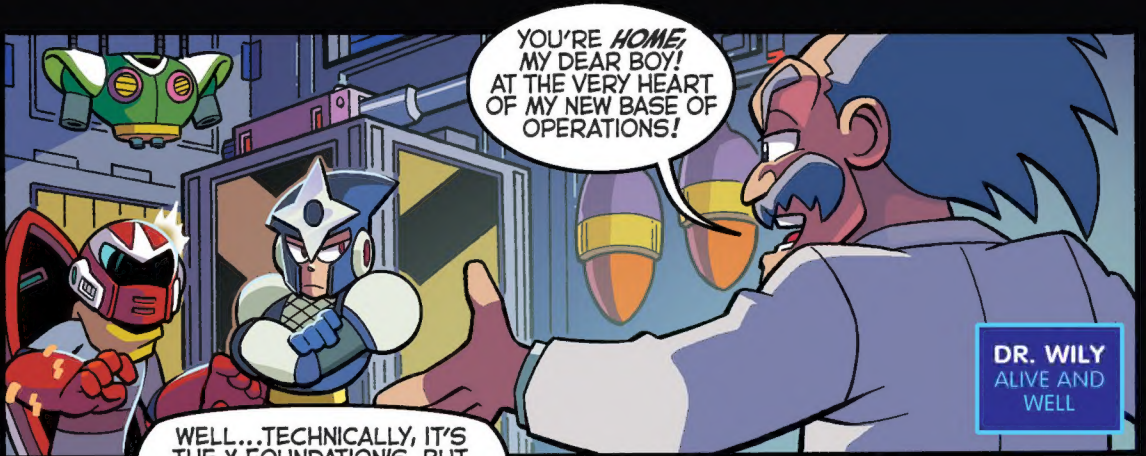




SHADOW MAN  
NINJA & WILY  
LOYALIST







YOU'RE *HOME*,  
MY DEAR BOY!  
AT THE VERY HEART  
OF MY NEW BASE OF  
OPERATIONS!

DR. WILY  
ALIVE AND  
WELL

WELL...TECHNICALLY, IT'S  
THE X FOUNDATION'S. BUT  
I'LL BE RUNNING THE SHOW  
SOON ENOUGH, EH? EH?



IF EVERYTHING  
GOES ACCORDING  
TO PLAN.

USE  
DISCRETION,  
MASTER.



YOU'RE  
...YOU'RE  
REALLY *HERE*,  
UNHARMED?

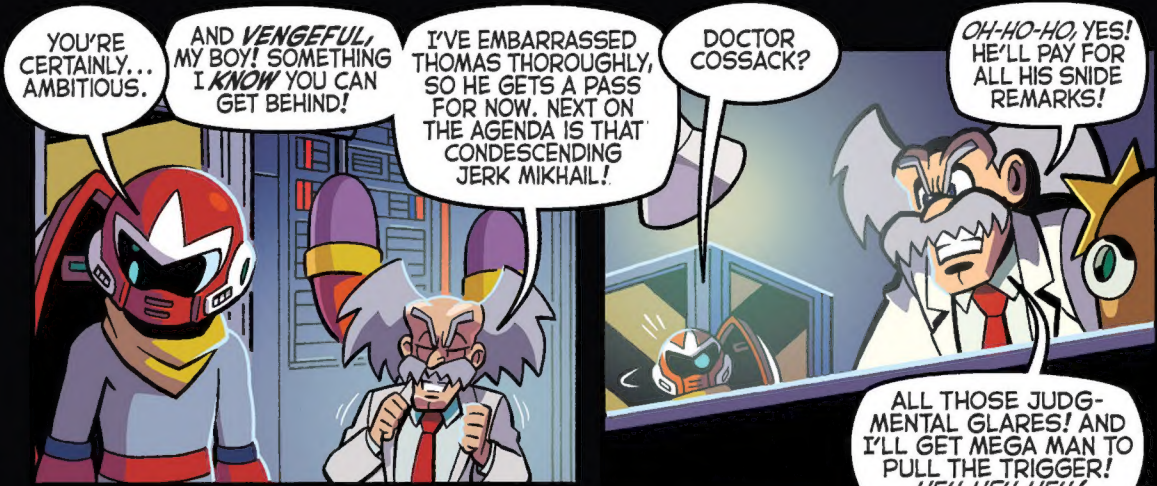
NO THANKS TO YOU!  
YOU WERE *SUPPOSED*  
TO HANDLE MEGA BRAT  
BACK AT LIGHT LABS!

INSTEAD,  
HE RUINED ALL  
MY PLANS--  
*AGAIN!*



BUT I WON'T GIVE UP IN  
THE FACE OF ADVERSITY!  
I'VE ALREADY BEGUN MY  
NEXT PLAN--AND ITS BACK-  
UP PLAN! AND THEN A  
BACK-UP PLAN FOR *THAT!*

IF I DON'T DESTROY  
MEGA MAN OUTRIGHT,  
I WILL GRIND HIM  
DOWN WITH A RELENT-  
LESS BARRAGE!  
*WAH-HA-HA-HA!*



YOU'RE CERTAINLY... AMBITIOUS.

AND *VENGEFUL*, MY BOY! SOMETHING I *KNOW* YOU CAN GET BEHIND!

I'VE EMBARRASSED THOMAS THOROUGHLY, SO HE GETS A PASS FOR NOW. NEXT ON THE AGENDA IS THAT CONDESCENDING JERK MIKHAIL!

DOCTOR COSSACK?

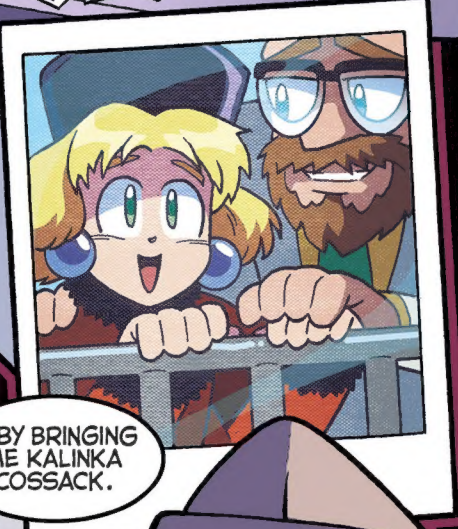
OH-HO-HO, YES! HE'LL PAY FOR ALL HIS SNIDE REMARKS!

ALL THOSE JUDGMENTAL GLARES! AND I'LL GET MEGA MAN TO PULL THE TRIGGER! HEH-HEH-HEH!

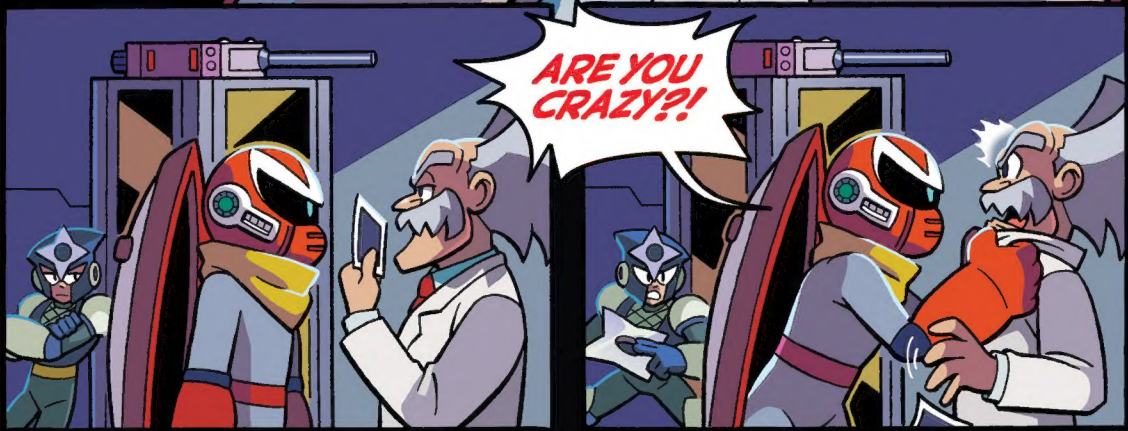


I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

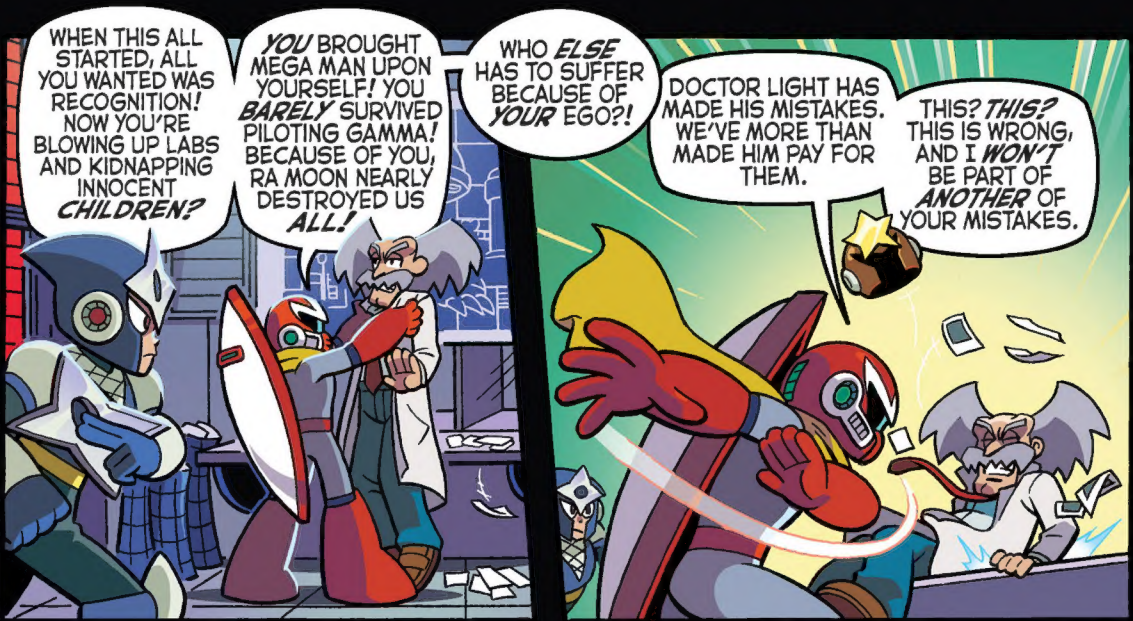
YOU DON'T *NEED* TO! YOU JUST BE A GOOD LITTLE SOLDIER AND FOLLOW ORDERS. MAKE UP FOR YOUR PAST FAILURES...



...BY BRINGING ME KALINKA COSSACK.



**ARE YOU CRAZY?!**



WHEN THIS ALL STARTED, ALL YOU WANTED WAS RECOGNITION! NOW YOU'RE BLOWING UP LABS AND KIDNAPPING INNOCENT CHILDREN?

YOU BROUGHT MEGA MAN UPON YOURSELF! YOU BARELY SURVIVED PILOTING GAMMA! BECAUSE OF YOU, RA MOON NEARLY DESTROYED US ALL!

WHO ELSE HAS TO SUFFER BECAUSE OF YOUR EGO?!

DOCTOR LIGHT HAS MADE HIS MISTAKES. WE'VE MORE THAN MADE HIM PAY FOR THEM.

THIS? THIS? THIS IS WRONG, AND I WON'T BE PART OF ANOTHER OF YOUR MISTAKES.



WE'RE THROUGH, WILY. QUIT WHILE YOU'RE BEHIND, AND MAYBE YOU'LL SURVIVE.

YOU CERTAINLY WON'T.

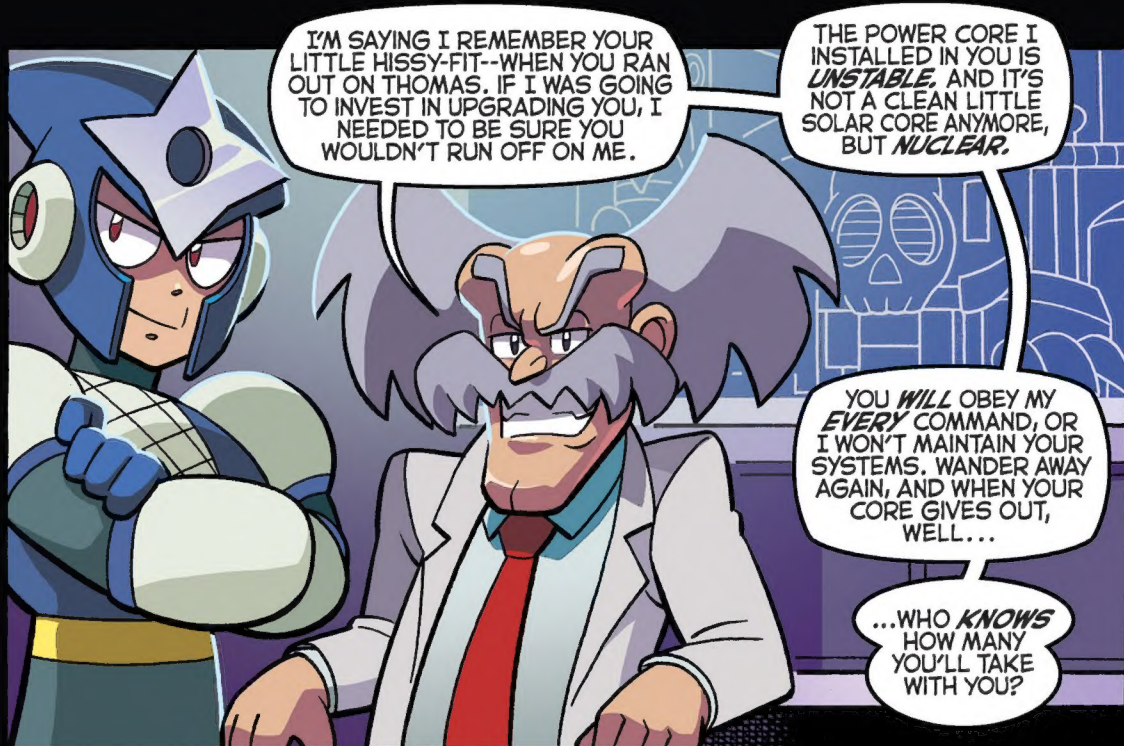


AN EMPTY THREAT. YOU *FIXED* MY POWER CORE. I'M NO LONGER IN DANGER.

NO. I *REPLACED* YOUR CORE.

...WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?





I'M SAYING I REMEMBER YOUR LITTLE HISSY-FIT--WHEN YOU RAN OUT ON THOMAS. IF I WAS GOING TO INVEST IN UPGRADING YOU, I NEEDED TO BE SURE YOU WOULDN'T RUN OFF ON ME.

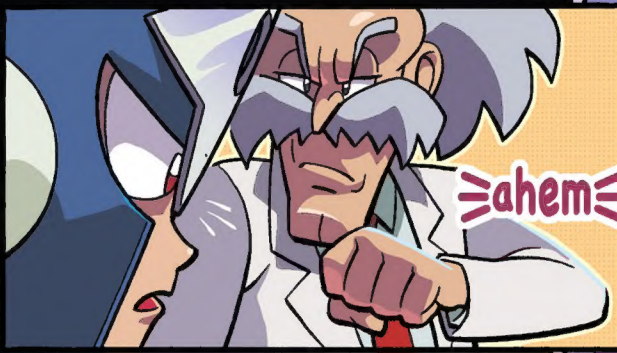
THE POWER CORE I INSTALLED IN YOU IS *UNSTABLE*, AND IT'S NOT A CLEAN LITTLE SOLAR CORE ANYMORE, BUT *NUCLEAR*.

YOU *WILL* OBEY MY *EVERY* COMMAND, OR I WON'T MAINTAIN YOUR SYSTEMS. WANDER AWAY AGAIN, AND WHEN YOUR CORE GIVES OUT, WELL...

...WHO *KNOWS* HOW MANY YOU'LL TAKE WITH YOU?



SO! WHAT'S THE FIRST THING YOU'RE GOING TO DO FOR ME?



ahem



HA HA HA HA!



SAINT PETERSBURG,  
RUSSIA...

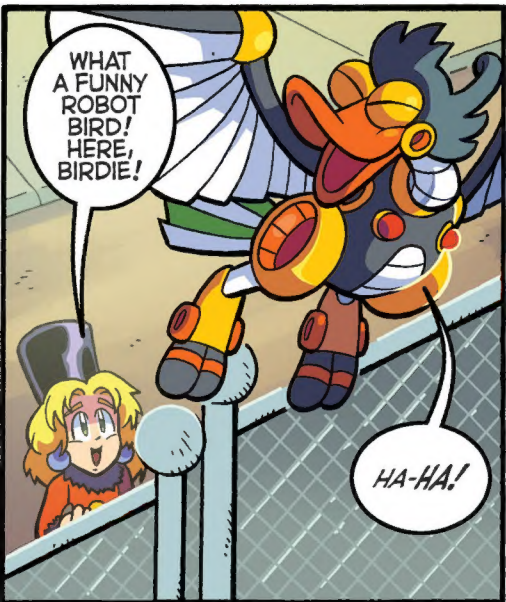
I'M  
PRINCESS  
OF THE  
CASTLE!

ALL  
OF YOU  
HAVE  
TO BOW  
TO ME  
NOW!

NOT THIS  
AGAIN...

WE'RE  
TIRED OF  
PLAYING  
CASTLES,  
KALINKA!

UNLESS  
IT'S A CASTLE  
OF MONKEYS!  
OOH-OOH!  
AHH-AHH!



WHAT  
A FUNNY  
ROBOT  
BIRD!  
HERE,  
BIRDIE!

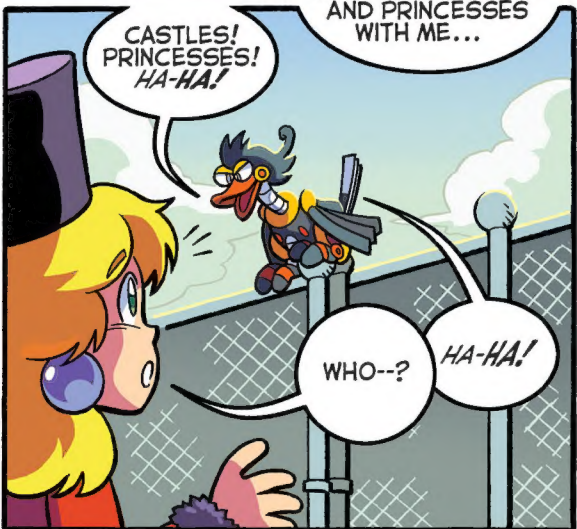
HA-HA!



MONKEYS  
ARE  
STUPID...

ARE NOT!  
OOK!  
EEK!

IF PHARAOH  
MAN WERE HERE,  
HE'D PLAY CASTLES  
AND PRINCESSES  
WITH ME...



CASTLES!  
PRINCESSES!  
HA-HA!

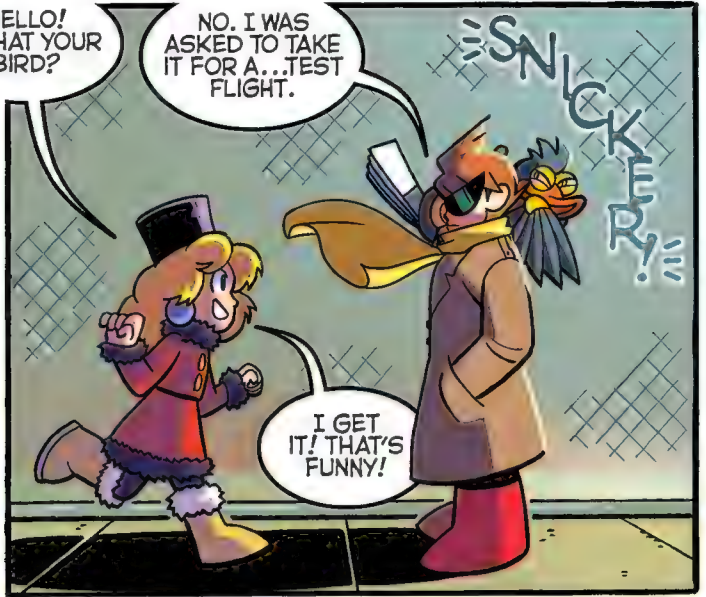
WHO--?

HA-HA!





HELLO!  
IS THAT YOUR  
BIRD?



NO. I WAS  
ASKED TO TAKE  
IT FOR A...TEST  
FLIGHT.

I GET  
IT! THAT'S  
FUNNY!

SNICK  
RICK  
POCK



YOU  
SHOULDN'T  
LEAVE THE  
SCHOOL  
GROUNDS.

I KNOW, BUT...MY DADDY  
IS WORKING ON A ROBOT  
BIRD DESIGN, AND YOURS  
IS ALREADY FINISHED! I  
JUST WANTED TO SEE!

HOW DO YOU  
CONTROL IT?



I'LL  
SHOW YOU.  
FIRST,  
PUT THIS  
ON.

OOH! IS  
IT SOME KIND  
OF  
CONTROLLER?

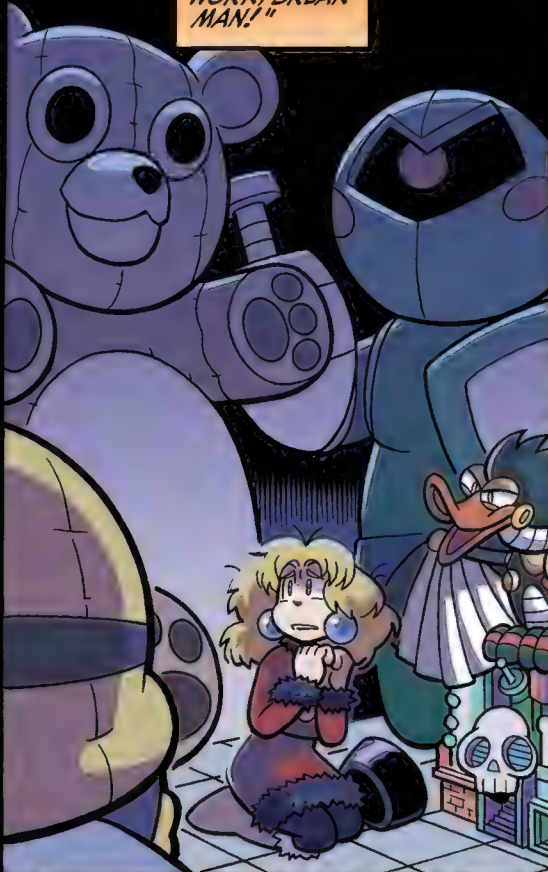


NO...IT'S  
A TELEPORT  
HARNES.



BWOOWIP!

"EXCELLENT  
WORK, BREAK  
MAN!"



I KNEW YOU  
WOULDN'T FAIL  
ME. YOU JUST  
NEEDED THE  
PROPER MOTI-  
VATION!

WITH  
SHADOW MAN  
BUSY OVERSEEING MY  
CASTLE'S CONSTRUCTION  
AND MAINTAINING  
HIS COVER AT THE  
OBSERVATORY, I'LL  
NEED YOU FOR MY  
ERRANDS.



NOW, THEN--  
I'VE GOT A CALL  
TO MAKE.

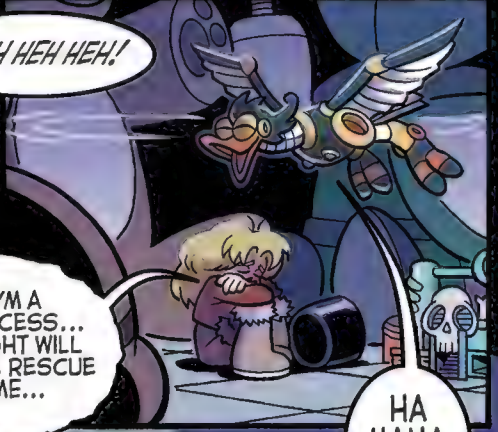
I'M SURE HER  
DADDY IS WORRIED  
SICK--

--HEH HEH HEH!



I-I'M A  
P-PRINCESS...  
A KNIGHT WILL  
C-COME RESCUE  
M-ME...

HA  
HAHA  
HA!



LATER...

GEO WORKS INTERNATIONAL, PHILIPPINES...

C'MON! YOU SAID YOU'D COME!

I SAID I WOULD ASSIST WITH YOUR BOTANICAL CATALOGUING AFTER I FINISHED MY GEOLOGICAL SAMPLES.

VESPER WOMAN LMN-002

QUAKE WOMAN LMN-001

UGH! I WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND HOW YOU CAN FIND ROCKS SO INTERESTING!

I WAS PROGRAMMED TO. I WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND WHY YOU DON'T PROCESS THAT.

FINE! MAYBE I'LL GO BY MYSELF!

YES. DO US BOTH THE FAVOR.

WAS THAT SARCAASM?!

MAYBE.

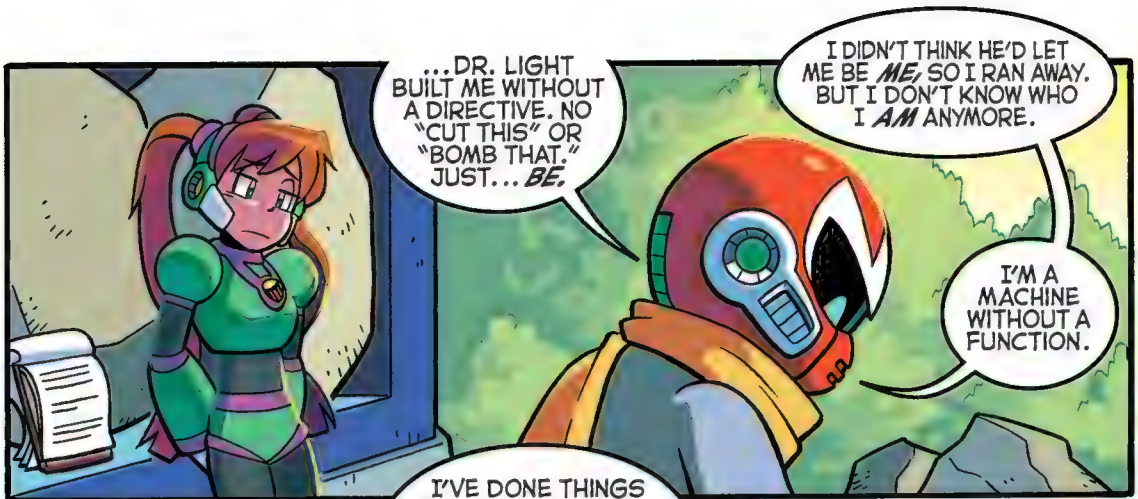
UGH! I CAN NEVER TELL WITH YOU!

NEITHER CAN I. THAT'S THE PROBLEM...

YOU'RE MAKING PROGRESS.

CAP COM





...DR. LIGHT BUILT ME WITHOUT A DIRECTIVE. NO "CUT THIS" OR "BOMB THAT." JUST... *BE*.

I DIDN'T THINK HE'D LET ME BE *ME*, SO I RAN AWAY. BUT I DON'T KNOW WHO I *AM* ANYMORE.

I'M A MACHINE WITHOUT A FUNCTION.

I'VE DONE THINGS I'M NOT PROUD OF. I LASHED OUT AT YOU, AT MEGA MAN, AT SO MANY OTHERS...

I'VE DONE THINGS I DON'T AGREE WITH-- *CAN'T* AGREE WITH--BUT I HAVE NO CHOICE.

I'VE BECOME A DANGER TO EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING.



AND MEGA MAN... I KEEP FIGHTING HIM. ROLL WAS CAUGHT IN THE CROSS-FIRE. LIGHT LABS BURNED DOWN. AND ALL HE WANTS IS TO BE MY *BROTHER*...

I HEARD YOU SAVED MEGA MAN FROM THE RUINS OF DR. WILY'S CASTLE.

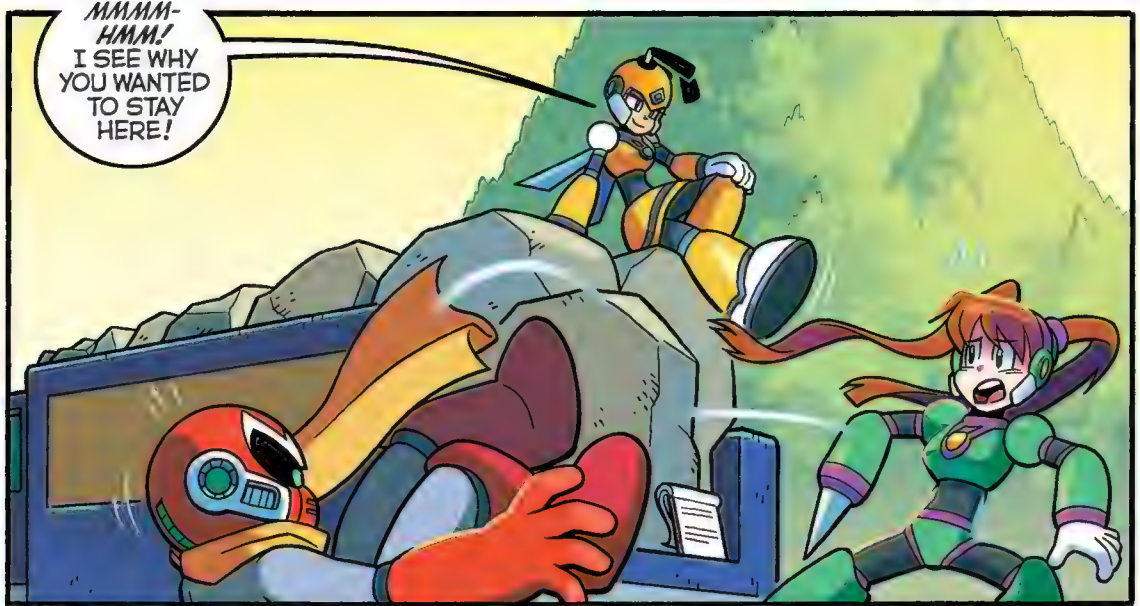


THAT DOESN'T MAKE UP FOR ALL THE TROUBLE I'VE CAUSED.

NO. BUT IT IS A START. NEXT, YOU CAN GO HOME.

BUT...

TRUST ME. IT WILL NOT BE EASY, BUT YOU CAN ALWAYS GO HOME.







SHE'S NEW.

DOCTOR LALINDE COMPLETED ONE OF DR. LIGHT'S UNUSED ROBOT MASTERS TO PROVIDE MORE FAMILIAL INTERACTION. SHE HOPED IT WOULD HELP RESTORE WHO I ONCE WAS.



IS IT WORKING?

SHE... FRUSTRATES ME.

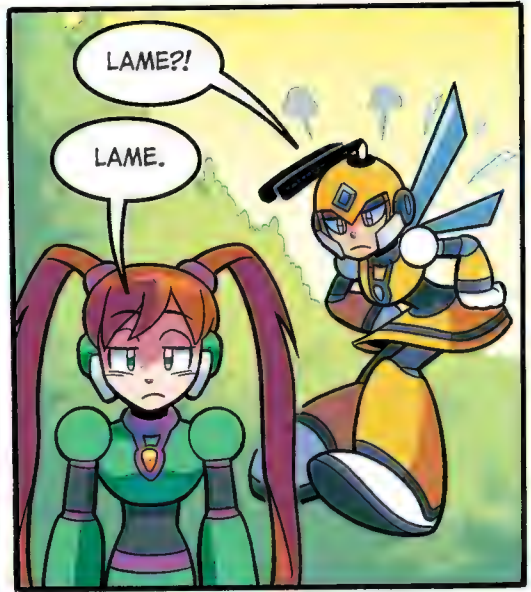
WHICH IS GOOD, BECAUSE IT'S A CLEAR EMOTIONAL RESPONSE!

IT IS COMPLICATED.



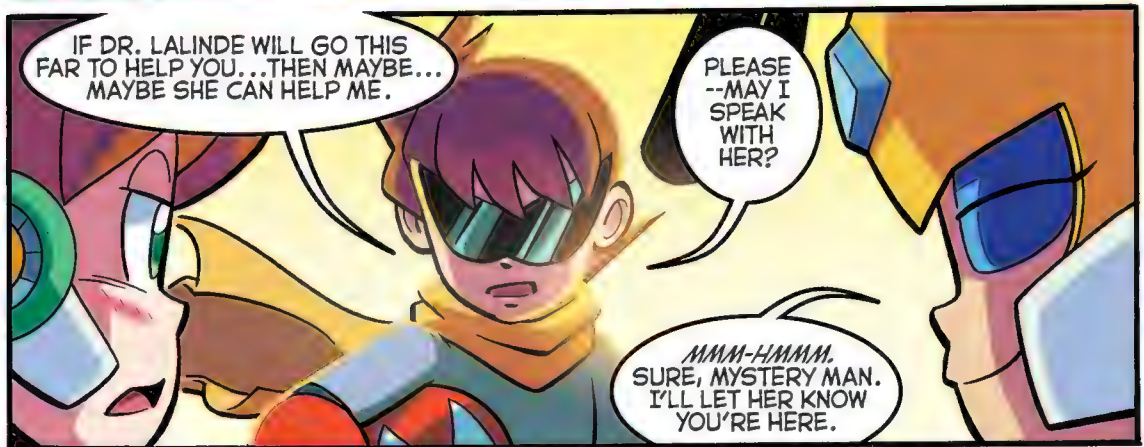
YEAH, WELL, LOVE IS COMPLICATED, SIS. AND IF *BUGGING* YOU MAKES YOU "YOU" AGAIN, THEN IT'S A GOOD THING I'M WASP-THEMED!

... SHE HAS HELPED ME FIND MY APPRECIATION FOR LAME JOKES.



LAME?!

LAME.



IF DR. LALINDE WILL GO THIS FAR TO HELP YOU... THEN MAYBE... MAYBE SHE CAN HELP ME.

PLEASE --MAY I SPEAK WITH HER?

MMM-HMMM. SURE, MYSTERY MAN. I'LL LET HER KNOW YOU'RE HERE.







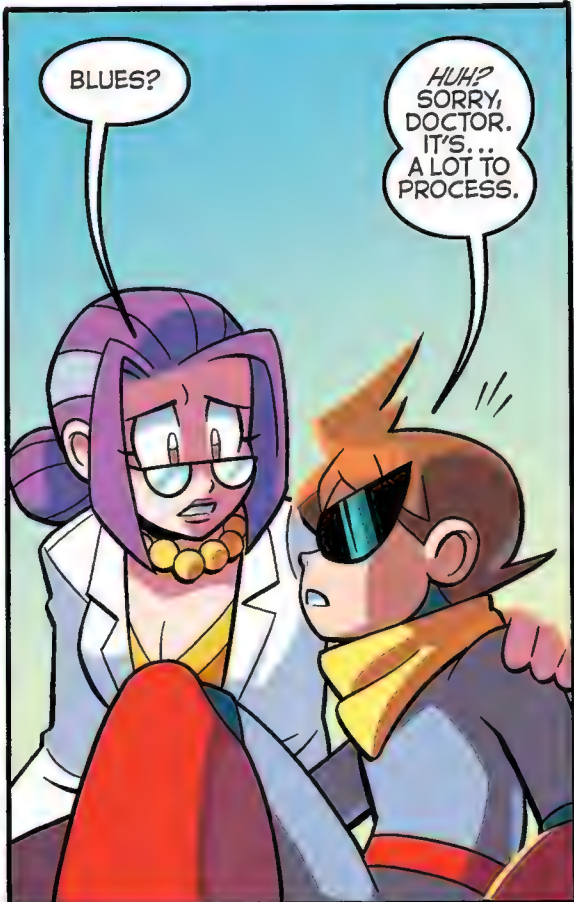
DOCTOR WILY LIED. HE PLAYED ME FROM THE START. AND NOW KALINKA'S LIFE IS IN DANGER.

I CAN'T RISK ANYONE ELSE GETTING CAUGHT IN MY MESS. I'LL HAVE TO HANDLE THIS ON MY OWN...



WILY SAID HE'D BE DRAWING OUT MEGA MAN. THAT MEANS ALL EYES WILL BE ON HIM--INCLUDING THE DOCTOR'S.

THAT MEANS NOBODY WILL BE PAYING ATTENTION TO ME...



BLUES?

HUH? SORRY, DOCTOR. IT'S... A LOT TO PROCESS.



I UNDERSTAND--ESPECIALLY FOR A ROBOT OF YOUR UNIQUE PROGRAMMING. WHILE I CAN'T FIX YOU, THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE WHO--



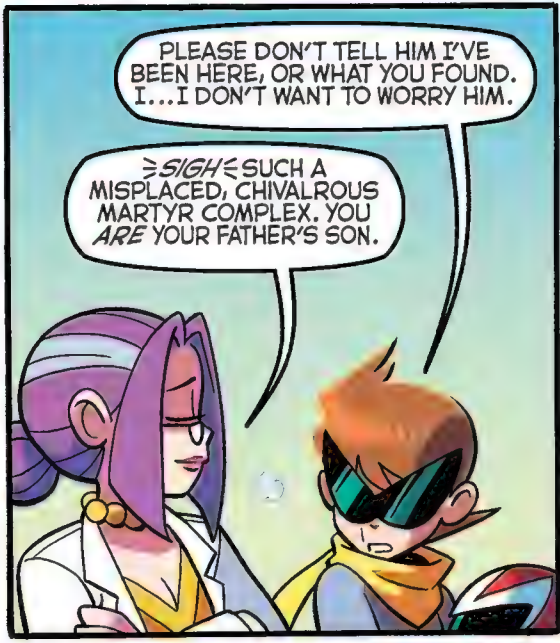
YOU MEAN DOCTOR LIGHT.

NO, I HAVEN'T EARNED THE RIGHT TO ASK ANYTHING OF HIM YET.



YOU DON'T *HAVE* TO EARN IT! HE LOVES YOU. HE ALWAYS HAS.

I REALIZE THAT NOW. I HAVE TO EARN IT FOR MYSELF.



PLEASE DON'T TELL HIM I'VE BEEN HERE, OR WHAT YOU FOUND. I... I DON'T WANT TO WORRY HIM.

≥SIGH≤ SUCH A MISPLACED, CHIVALROUS MARTYR COMPLEX. YOU *ARE* YOUR FATHER'S SON.



NO. NOT YET. I'VE NOT EARNED THE RIGHT TO THAT, EITHER.

**CRACK!**



Proto Man is shown in a full-body view, standing in a heroic pose. He is wearing his signature red and white armor, a yellow cape, and a red visor. He has a determined expression. In his right hand, he holds a large red energy tank. His left hand is clenched into a fist. The background consists of vertical light rays in shades of blue and green, suggesting a bright, open environment. There are three speech bubbles: one in the top left, one in the top right, and one in the bottom right.

MAYBE  
ONE DAY I  
CAN GO BACK  
TO BEING  
BLUES.

FOR NOW, I'M  
JUST THE FIRST OF  
MY LINE. THE PROTO-  
TYPE TO THE ROBOT  
MASTERS. I AM--

--PROTO MAN!

THE *WANDERING RED ROBOT* HAS *FINALLY* FOUND HIS DIRECTION!

JOIN US NEXT TIME FOR AN EXTRA-SPECIAL *MEGA MAN #55--*  
**"FOR EVERLASTING PEACE!"**

# Letter from the EDITOR

Editorial commentary that's been "proto-typed" with care!



Hey, Mega fans!

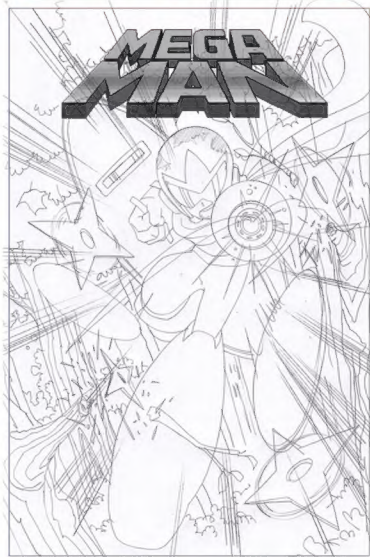
I hope you all enjoyed "Red Shift" as much as I did! After dozens of instances where **Blues** has fought with himself over who he wanted to be and what he wanted to do as **Break Man**, it's so satisfying to finally see him following his own path as **Proto Man**! A big hand to **Ian, Ryan, Gary, John, Matt** and **Jon** for making the official debut of Proto Man so incredibly epic!

I'd also like to share with everyone this behind-the-scenes look at the production of the main cover for this special issue. The legendary Patrick "Spaz" Spaziante had two awesome options for this issue's cover, seen here, both are so full of drama and energy, it was tough to choose! Also, artist **Brent McCarthy** offered his talents on the chilling "I Am Proto Man" variant cover, check out his initial sketch below!

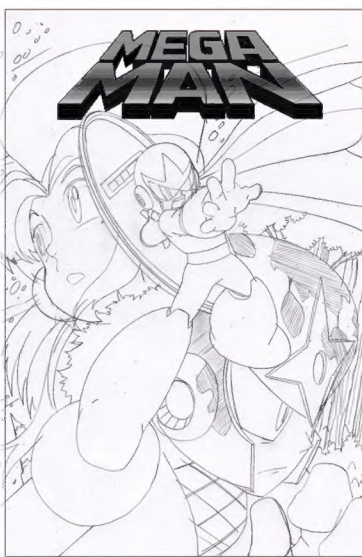
It has been an honor to work on this story with everyone and I can't be prouder of how it turned out!

– Vincent "Vin" Lovallo  
Editor

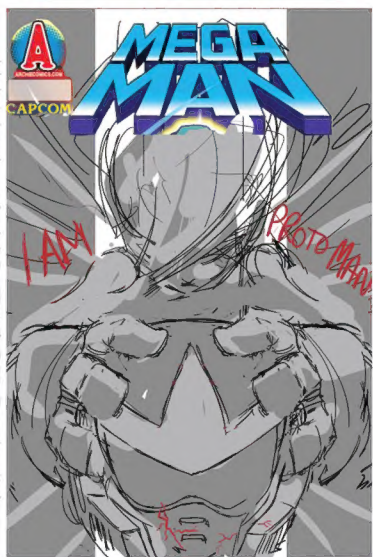
**BELOW:** Spaz's first sketch option which became the final cover for *Mega Man* #54.



**BELOW:** Spaz's alternate sketch option for the main cover of *Mega Man* #54.



**BELOW:** Brent McCarthy's initial sketch for the variant cover of *Mega Man* #54.





**Mateo M.** sent to [MegaMan@ArchieComics.com](mailto:MegaMan@ArchieComics.com)



**Arnae H.** from Minnesota

**Icesera W.** sent to [MegaMan@ArchieComics.com](mailto:MegaMan@ArchieComics.com)



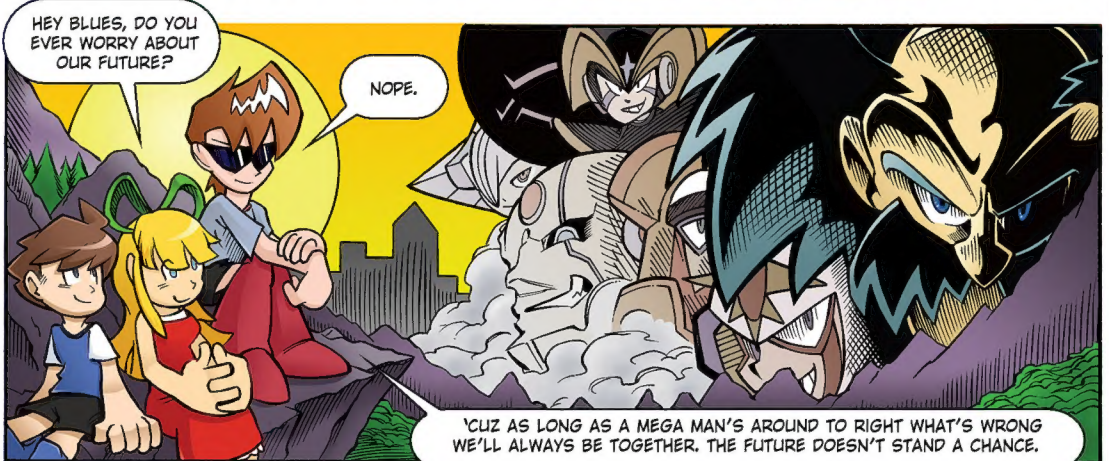
**Rafaela A.** sent to [MegaMan@ArchieComics.com](mailto:MegaMan@ArchieComics.com)

**Skyler M.** sent to [MegaMan@ArchieComics.com](mailto:MegaMan@ArchieComics.com)



ART WILL NOT BE RETURNED. SPACE LIMITATIONS MAY REQUIRE SOME PRINTED ART TO BE EDITED. ALL YOUR LETTERS & FAN ART ARE APPRECIATED!

## -SHORT- REDS AND BLUES OR PULP FUTURE



SCRIPT & PENCILS: JONATHAN H. GRAY INKS: RICK BRYANT COLORS: ALEAH BAKER





# MEGA MAIL

WRITE TO US @: MEGA-MAIL C/O  
ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC.  
629 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 100  
PELHAM, NY 105803-1242 E-MAIL:  
MEGAMAN@ARCHIECOMICS.COM  
OR TWEET AT US USING #MEGAMAIL!

Dear 'Mega Mail,'

*Mega Man #53* asks the question, "what's a hero without a villain?" Well, still a hero, just in less obvious ways. Not in the enemies he's defeated, but in the friends he's made and world he's built. It's nice to see what Robot Masters are up to when they're not blowing each other up. It was also weird to see Guts and Concrete Man okay with being deactivated. Wouldn't they resent Rock because he has special consideration?

*Interesting question, but not likely. Part of the conflict presented dealt with what a robot would do once its function was fulfilled—be at peace with itself or strive for more. For Guts and Concrete Man, their answer was blunt, but simple.*

As always we get a great characterization of Rock as the conflicted hero. He wants peace and justice foremost, but is willing to do something he hates to get to it. It was nice seeing his reaction to the Robot Masters ranging from bittersweet to childish joy to disappointment. I was surprised by how in the end it was Fire Man who cheers him up. That said, it was eerie seeing the deactivated Robot Masters but I'm glad to see Dr. Wily is already planning ahead to Mega Man 5! The high five scene with him and Shadow Man was priceless!

*The doctor's a selfish, egocentric, egomaniacal loon—but he's a FUN selfish, egocentric, egomaniacal loon!*

It's also interesting to see how Xander Payne has been reworked to fit into the games' canon. I also liked the young Dr. Light and Dr. Wily scene. Maybe we can get an "Al and Tom's Excellent Adventure" side story? Also, just what is this dark episode in Wily's past that everyone keeps talking about?

Sincerely,  
Jonathan G. sent to  
MegaMan@ArchieComics.com

*Dr. Wily's always let his selfish desires get in the way of his common sense, Jonathan! Perhaps someday the tale of what set him down his dark path can be told...*

Dear 'Mega Mail,'

Mega Man has been getting more and more quality recently. The periods surrounding "Worlds Unite" have some great art!! Especially the "Ultimate Betrayal" arc with its color renderings and stuff!!

*Well thank you for that glowing review! I'm certain that the colorist for the "Ultimate Betrayal" arc, Ms. Evan Stanley, will appreciate your high praise!*

I love how Archie Comics is evolving recently with all the titles including the new Archie series! May I ask if we'll be able to get some solo or mini series... or even just a mashup... of all the Mega Man versions?

I'm still waiting for my favorite Mega Man Zero to appear! Hahaha!! and also... don't forget... "All the Mega Man versions in a story arc" \*wink wink\* Hahaha!! I proudly support you guys! Thank you again!

Bruce S. sent to  
MegaMan@ArchieComics.com

*Thanks, Bruce! Hmmm... maybe you and the rest of our super amazing fans should take a good long look at our "next issue" page...*

Dear 'Mega Mail,'

Hello to whoever answers the fan mail. What is your favorite part of your job and who is your idol?

Kiera R. sent to  
MegaMan@ArchieComics.com

*Kiera, that's sweet! Thank you for thinking of the man behind the curtain! My favorite part of this job is answering letters from cool people like you! And as far as my idol goes... that's a toughie.*

*Y'see, I'm not sure what my Increased Degradation of LDL Receptor Proteins (IDOL), a ubiquitin ligase that ubiquitinates LDL receptors in endosomes which directs the receptors to the lysosomal compartments for degradation, has to do with Mega Man, but... I guess I'll have to get back to you on that!*

*Until then, see y'all next issue!*

CHECK OUT MORE AWESOME TITLES FROM



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

ISSUE 278



"FACE OF THE ENEMY PT.1"  
& "HIDDEN COSTS PT.2"  
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 278

ISSUE 81

SONIC UNIVERSE



"THE SILVER AGE"  
SONIC UNIVERSE 79-82

**NEXT ISSUE**

MEGA MAN™ 55



**DON'T MISS THIS MEGA-SPECIAL ISSUE!**

**EVERLASTING PEACE**